

THE EVENING STAR
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FOIAB3B.

The Liberty

SIR: The Associated Press story by the Israeli Reservist, Micha Limor, leads me to the following observations regarding the attack on the Liberty on June 8:

1. I have not heard that any Arab nation had a ship which resembled the Liberty. Thus the attack by the Israeli planes was a stupid mistake which is impossible to excuse even in the frenzy of combat.

2. The torpedo boats observed: "the high masts and the many weird antennae showed that this was a warship." I would suggest to Reservist Limor that masts and antennae have very little firepower and certainly should have been evidence enough that the Liberty was a communications ship.

3. He was surprised that there was no one on the decks on the bridge. This fact alone should have been evidence enough that this was not a combat ship. Of course, there was no one on the deck, except perhaps a few casualties from the air attacks!

4. His final "proof" or justification for the torpedo attack was the fact that a "sailor started firing at us with a heavy machine gun." This reservist should be advised that our warships are armed with more formidable weapons than machine guns. Maybe our Navy could give him a tour of one of our fighting ships. The education might be helpful to him the next time they are circling an unidentified ship.

5. The most important aspect of the story centers around the sailor with the machine gun. This man, in obvious disregard of his own safety, apparently tried to stop the torpedo boat with the only weapon at his command. He literally gave his life in an effort to save the ship. To quote again from the story: "We directed cannon against him and a moment later he fell." This man did not die in a declared war, an undeclared war, a police action or at the hand of an international foe. But he did die in the performance of his duty and in the manner which deserves this country's highest recognition, the Medal of Honor.

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SIR: In the face of wild rumors, involving the integrity of military staffing and our government in Washington, our government has thus far "explained" the Liberty attack with press releases based on a Naval Court of Inquiry. The Washington Star considers it a "Pentagon cover-up."

Does the United States government, much less the government of Israel, intend to let wild rumor determine what the American people decide about the savage attack on the Liberty?

Rufus Webb. ✓